United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea SPLOS/144

Meeting of States Parties

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New York, 19-23 June 2006

Decision on issues related to the proposals by the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

The Meeting of States Parties,

Taking note of the letter dated 19 May 2006 from the Chairman of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf ("the Commission") addressed to the President of the sixteenth Meeting of States Parties (SPLOS/140), in particular the draft decision for consideration by the sixteenth Meeting of States Parties annexed to that letter, containing proposals by the Commission to deal with issues related to the workload of the Commission and funding for its members attending the sessions of the Commission and the meetings of the subcommissions,

Reaffirming the importance of the work of the Commission for coastal States and the international community as a whole,

Acknowledging the anticipated workload of the Commission owing to an increasing number of submissions, placing additional demands on its members and the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs, serving as the secretariat of the Commission ("the Division"),

Recognizing in this context the burden, including the financial burden, being placed on States, in particular developing States, whose experts are serving on the Commission,

Desirous to ensure that the Commission can perform its functions under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ("the Convention") effectively and maintain its high level of quality and expertise,

Underlining the need to ensure that all members of the Commission can fulfil their duties effectively, including their full participation in the sessions of the Commission and the meetings of the subcommissions,

Emphasizing the need to maintain, to the extent possible, given the term of office of the members of the Commission, continuity in the composition of subcommissions throughout the consideration of a submission,

Recalling the important role of the voluntary trust fund for the purpose of defraying the cost of participation of the members of the Commission from

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developing States in the meetings of the Commission established by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/7 ("the Trust Fund"),

Bearing in mind the legal framework of the work of the Commission, provided for in article 76 of and Annex II to the Convention,

1. *Decides* to address the issues related to the workload of the Commission and funding for its members attending the sessions of the Commission and the meetings of the subcommissions as a matter of priority;

2. *Calls upon* States Parties whose experts are serving on the Commission to do their utmost to ensure the full participation of those experts in the work of the Commission, in accordance with the Convention;

3. *Calls upon* States Parties to contribute voluntarily to the Trust Fund with a view to facilitating the participation of members of the Commission from developing States in the work of the Commission;

4. *Calls upon* the Commission to further consider, in consultation with the Secretariat, possible ways of improving its working methods in order to ensure the timely and efficient performance of its functions, and invites the Chairman of the Commission to inform the next Meeting of States Parties on measures taken in this respect;

5. *Notes* that during the sixteenth Meeting of States Parties the proposals by the Commission as well as additional proposals made by participating States were discussed without a decision being taken due to a lack of sufficient background information, and requests the Secretariat to prepare, based on the discussions at the sixteenth Meeting of States Parties and in due time before the next Meeting, an information note providing relevant details or facts on all proposals that have been made;

6. *Calls* for strengthening the Division, serving as the secretariat of the Commission, for the purpose of enhancing its technical support for the Commission;

7. *Decides* to take up the issues related to the workload of the Commission and funding for its members attending the sessions of the Commission and the meetings of the subcommissions at the next Meeting of States Parties under the item "Information reported by the Chairman of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf".